sensing a fingerprint of a user;

comparing the sensed fingerprint with preregistered fingerprint data; and

controlling access to the machine in accordance with whether the sensed fingerprint data matches the preregistered fingerprint data.

30. A method in accordance with claim 29 further comprising the step of controlling operation of the machine in accordance with user specific information, when there is a match of fingerprints.

Please cancel Claims 4, 5, 8, 11, 12.

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, and 10 have been amended. Multiple dependent claims 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 13-30 have been added.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted for the purposes of removing multiple dependencies in the claims and of conforming the claim language to usual U.S. practice conventions. In addition, a number of new claims have been added.

The following newly added claims correspond to the cancelled multiple dependent claims:

Newly added claims 13-14 correspond, in part, to cancelled claim 4.

Newly added claims 15-16 correspond, in part, to cancelled claim 5.

Newly added claim 17 corresponds, in part, to cancelled claim 8.

Newly added claim 18 corresponds, in part, to cancelled claim 11.

Newly added claim 19 corresponds, in part, to cancelled claim 12.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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